

Message Text

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ACTION COA-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 INT-08 AID-20 EB-11 IO-14 RSC-01

COME-00 TRSE-00 SWF-02 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 L-03

DLOS-07 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01 /117 W

----- 084412

R 022157Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1282

USDA/FAS WASHDC

UNCLAS LIMA 6372

EO 11652 N/A

TAGS: EAGR, PE

SUBJ: ANCHOVY SITUATION

1. AGATTACHE TODAY OBTAINED REPORT ON MAY OPERACION EUREKA AND AIRPOUCHING SAME TO FAS. ALTHOUGH WATER TEMPERATURE AND PLANKTON CONDITIONS GENERALLY GOOD, THE REPORT SHOWS SLOWER RECOVERY THAN HAD BEEN EXPECTED AND RECOMMENDS CAUTION IN FUTURE EXLPOITATION. TOTAL ANCHOVY STOCK ESTIMATED AT 5-7 MILLION TONS AS OF LATE MAY, STILL ABOUT SAME LEVEL AS NOVEMBER 1973.

2. IMARPE AND PESCAPERU EXPECT BEGIN ANOTHER OPERACION EUREKA IN LATE AUGUST AND SOME BELIEVE FULL SCALE FISHING COULD BE RESUMED AS EARLY AS MID-SEPTEMBER. FISHERMEN MORE ENTHUSIASTIC THAN SCIENTISTS BUT IT EXPECTED THAT CATCH WILL YIELD ANOTHER 500,000 M.T. OF FISHMEAL.

3. SOME FISHING STILL CONTINUES IN SOUTH BUT CATCHES SELDOM OVER 100 M.T. PER WEEK. A FEW FISHMEAL PLANTS IN NORTH ALSO PROCESSING EXCESS FOOD FISH AND SARDINES REPORTED TO BE ABUNDANT.

4. EPCHAP SILENT ON SALES AND MARKET SITUATION BUT OTHER SOURCES REPORT SEVERAL CONTRACTS RECENTLY WITH GERMANY, SPAIN AND ITALY. REPORTEDLY CONTINENTAL HAS BOUGHT 50,000 M.T. FOR ALLIED MILLS PROBABLY AT THE LOWEST LEVEL EPCHAP SOLD, ABOUT \$260/MT. THE

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RUMORED POPULAR CHINA SALE APPARENTLY NOT MADE AND NO OTHER LARGE

SALES AGREEMENTS REPORTED.

5. AGATTACHE UNDERSTANDS THAT EPCHAP HAS NOW WITHDRAWN FROM MARKET
WITH ALL STOCKS COMMITTED. SOME SOURCES EVEN BELIEVE THEY MAY
HAVE OVERSOLD.
DEAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, FISH, FISHING REGULATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LIMA06372
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740211-1127
From: LIMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740879/aaaacqas.tel
Line Count: 67
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION COA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 OCT 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 OCT 2002 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <21 JAN 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ANCHOVY SITUATION
TAGS: EAGR, PE
To: STATE AGR
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005